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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/804,034	03/13/2001	James A. Johnston	10004150	8839

24737 7590 01/05/2005		EXAMINER
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS		NGUYEN, CINDY

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2161	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _11 October 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _3-17_ is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _3-17_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _18 May 2001_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage

　　　　　　application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08).
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to amendments filed 10/11/04.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the

new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 3-10 and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being

anticipated by Beizer et al. (US 6240414) (Beizer).

Regarding claims 3, 5 and 15-17, Beizer discloses: a system, a process, a

device and a computer readable medium encoded with processing instructions

for implementing a method for automatically updating data elements in a form

document being used by a first software application, the system comprising:

A server (31) for storing data elements in a common database (30, fig. 2

and corresponding text, Beizer); and

Client terminals connected to the server via a network (54, 36, 38, 39, 31,

41 fig. 2 and corresponding text, Beizer),

Wherein one or more of the client terminals are configured for accessing the data elements stored in the common database that correspond to the form document being used by the first software application (56, fig. 3A and corresponding text, Beizer);

Wherein the data elements of the database can common to one or more form documents of one or more software applications having access to the common database, further wherein each data element includes at least a field and data in the field (col. 6, lines 45-61, Beizer);

The one or more client terminal further for inputting the accessed data elements into the form document, wherein the first software application is responsive to a first user input for making changes to the accessed data elements within the form document (col. 6, lines 45-61, Beizer),

The one or more client terminals further for monitoring the common database to detect changes to the accessed data elements that may have been changed by the first software application or a second software application of the one or more software applications in response to input of a second user while the form document is being used by the first software application in response to input by the first user (col. 6, lines 18-35, Beizer),

And the one or more client terminal further for updating the accessed data elements in the form document while the form document is being used by the first software application in response to input of the first user (col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer),

Wherein the updating occurs in accordance with rules corresponding to the detected changes, further wherein the monitoring of the common database and the updating of the data elements in the form document comprise: a program segment of the first software application or a software process implemented as a thread executing in a multi-tasking operating system environment (fig. 5 and corresponding text, Beizer),

Wherein the program segment or software process implemented as a thread (a) periodically checks the common database for available updates to the accessed data elements (col. 14, lines 65 to col. 15, lines 14, Beizer); (b) retrieves new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records from the common database in response to an availability of updates, the new records corresponding to the accessed data elements that have changed (col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer), and (C) processes the new records corresponding to the changed data elements as an array of new records for updating the accessed data elements in the form document while the form documents is being used by the first software application and the first user (col. 14, lines 34-63, Beizer),

Further wherein processing the array of new records includes adding new records to the array of new records or deleting new records form the array of new records in response to one or more comparisons against old records of the form document[1] (change field in workfolders), the old records corresponding to records existing as of a last time the accessed data elements of the form

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[1] Workfolders as the array of records can be changed (add, deleted, updated) by users.

document where updated or as of a last time the accessed data elements of the

form document were updated or as of a time the form document was opened, the

adding or detecting to the array of new records further being in accordance with

the rules corresponding with the rules corresponding to the detected changed

(col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer).

Regarding claim 4, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the

rejection of claim 3. In addition, Beizer discloses: further comprising: displaying an

update status of the accessed data elements in accordance with the updating (col. 6,

lines 4-16, Beizer); validating present and past changes to the accessed data elements

of the form document (the program compares the version, col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer)

storing the validated present and past changes to the accessed data elements in the

common database (updated master copy, col. 6, lines 4-16, Beizer).

Regarding claim 6, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the

rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the rules synchronize

simultaneous changes made to the accessed data elements (col. 6, line 18-35,

Beizer).

Regarding claim 7, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the

rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the rules are based

upon a characteristic of the change to the accessed data elements by a second

user and a characteristic of the accessed data elements wherein the

characteristic of the change includes the accessed data elements having been
electronically signed by the second user, and wherein the characteristic of the
accessed data elements includes one or more of (i) a change to a field of the
accessed data elements while the form document has remained open, (ii) fields
of the accessed data elements having been updated from the common
database while the form document has remained open, (iii) fields of the
accessed data elements that have not changed since the form document was
opened and the accessed data elements having been electronically signed by
the first user (col. 6, lines 18-61, Beizer).

Regarding claim 8, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the
rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein use of the accessed
data elements by the first user includes editing the accessed data elements (col.
16, line 18-35, Beizer).

Regarding claim 9, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the
rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the computer
readable media is further encodes with processing instructions so that the
processor provides update notification to the first user while the form document
is being used by the first user (col. 14, line 11-25, Beizer).

Regarding claim 10, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the
rejection of claim 9. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the update notification

comprises displaying update history information corresponding to each

accessed data element in the form document (col. 14, lines 11-25, Beizer).

Regarding claim 13, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the

rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the inputted accessed

data elements are stored locally and the common database is stored remotely

(56 and 50, fig. 3A and corresponding text, Beizer).

Regarding claim 14, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the

rejection of claim 5. In addition, Beizer discloses: wherein the computer

readable media is further encoded with processing instructions so that the

processor further maintains a change log of the accessed data elements (col.

14, lines 11-25, Beizer).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art
> are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to
> a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

   **Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
over** Beizer et al. (US 6240414) (Beizer) **in view of Sugano et al. (U.S 6205478)
(Sugano).**

   Regarding claim 11, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the
rejection of claim 10. However, Beizer didn't disclose: wherein the update
notification includes displaying the accessed data element in different colors in
accordance with the updating. On the other hand, Sugano discloses: wherein
the update notification includes displaying the accessed data element in
different colors in accordance with the updating (col. 25, lines 19-35, Sugano).
Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of
ordinary skill in the art to include wherein the update notification includes
displaying the accessed data in different colors in accordance with the updating
in the combination system of Beizer as taught by Sugano. The motivation being
enable the system notifies signal in the form of a color in a window of the
corresponding UIO is displayed in a reverse mode or different color from other
no-updated (col. 25, lines 19-35, Sugano).

   Regarding claim 12, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the
rejection of claim 10. In addition, Beizer/Sugano discloses: wherein the update
notification includes associating comment bubbles with the accessed data (col.
25, lines 19-35, Sugano).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-

3900.

FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Cindy Nguyen

December 23, 2004